



Little Tokyo Community Council
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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City Planning Department
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street,
Los Angeles CA 90012-2601
RE: 7-Eleven, Conditional Use Permit (Case No. ZA 2013-1856 (MCUP))

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), we are submitting this letter of **opposition** to the application from 7-Eleven, Inc. seeking a Plan Approval to previously approved Case No. ZA 2013-1856 (MCUP), to allow for the establishment and operation of a convenience store with off-sale beer and wine open 24-hours daily at 220 East 2nd Street and 236 South Los Angeles Street. LTCC is the membership-based, non-profit coalition of businesses, residents, non-profit organizations and religious institutions tied to the historic Japanese American neighborhood in downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo. At 134 years old, Little Tokyo is the second oldest neighborhood in the city of Los Angeles, and one of three remaining historic Japantowns recognized in the United States. It is also a community that strongly values our small businesses and mom-and-pop stores that have been the cornerstone to shaping the culture of the neighborhood.

LTCC already has a longstanding policy against off-site liquor sales, and we firmly believe that granting 7-Eleven their requests for off-site liquor sales and 24 hours of operation will create an extremely negative impact to the historic Little Tokyo neighborhood. And as a neighborhood adjacent to the Skid Row community, Little Tokyo is constantly negotiating the impacts of our ongoing housing and homelessness crisis, and the many ways it affects Little Tokyo businesses, residents, cultural organizations, community, religious institutions, and visitors to our neighborhood. Even though the City is making some progress addressing our housing crisis, the impacts will not be seen and felt for some years to come.

7-Elevens have a clear track record of being a nuisance in their areas by adding blight, being a conduit for crime, and a location for vagrancy and vandalism to these neighborhoods. The proposed 7-Eleven clearly is not concerned about these issues because they have no current commitment to adding staff dedicated to security. Meanwhile, LTCC is aware that there are serious security, safety, and cleanliness issues that these 7-Elevens have brought to other areas in Downtown (and LA), without selling liquor. For example, a 7-Eleven located at 5th and Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles recently closed. This is just one example of an amalgamation of our community's concerns. The storefront was a frequent drug dealing location and neighbors and consumers often witnessed fights. Furthermore, a common challenge for customers in stores was that sales staff was too busy mitigating vagrancy issues, de-escalating fights, and enforcing their "no-bag" policy so that food items were often under stocked and lines were very long. The stores offered no commitment to having a dedicated on-site security staff, and similar issues are likely to arise as a result.

In addition, a number of parents of nearby apartments are concerned that a 7-Eleven store could become a local hangout for their teenagers and friends to consume unhealthy food and have potential access to liquor and cigarettes, especially due to the proposed 24-7 hours of operation. The community already has three grocery stores that provide many of the same daily goods this store is claiming to offer, therefore we do not see the added benefit of locating a 7-Eleven in our neighborhood.

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community coalition representing the interests of Little Tokyo, with membership from businesses, residents, community organizations, religious institutions, and other vested stakeholders in the Little Tokyo community.



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Granting 7-Eleven off-site liquor sales and 24-7 hours of operation is widely regarded as a clear and immediate threat and danger to the Little Tokyo neighborhood, and the community is united in our opposition to the store, but specifically their sale of liquor and proposed operating hours.

After a presentation by Avalon Bay and 7-Eleven representatives in February, the following motions were voted on and approved by LTCC committees, the LTCC Board, and LTCC Membership:

- LTCC opposes the 7-Eleven request to allow off-site sales of alcohol, and its proposed hours of operation
- LTCC opposes the 7-Eleven store be located at Avalon Bay in Little Tokyo.

We urge the Zoning Administrator to **deny** this application, and hope to work with the city to shut down this project altogether, given the many issues and concerns the community has with 7-Eleven. Little Tokyo is united in our **opposition** to the CUP application (both their proposal to sell alcohol and proposed operating hours), and to the store being located in Little Tokyo.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kristin Fukushima at kristin@littletokyola.org and I will be happy to provide any additional information requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristin Fukushima
Managing Director
Little Tokyo Community Council